

Why Watch Wildlife?



- 1. Critters are critical.** Healthy and diverse native wildlife indicate a balanced ecosystem. Critters keep pests in check, pollinate and carry seeds of native plants, improve water quality, and entertain us with croaks, choruses and tweets.
- 2. We can know how to help.** When we know where sensitive species are choosing to make their homes, we can understand their habitat needs and enhance open areas to make Gresham a better place for them to live.
- 3. It's fun for everyone.** Regular monitoring allows people of all ages to get outside and connect with nature. Observing a bird's life cycle, from nest-building and egg-laying, to a fledgling's first flight, will foster an increased appreciation for, and protection of, wildlife.
- 4. There's a lot to learn.** Wildlife Watchers will be trained in bird, small mammal, reptile, and amphibian identification.



Painted Lady Butterfly, Michael Hanselmann

Your Observations Are Critical

Information about the number and species of birds, frogs, bats, and other critters help City biologists track the success of stream restoration projects and other efforts to increase biodiversity, improve water quality, and make Gresham a better place for people and wildlife.



A City volunteer peeks inside a nesting box.



Become a Wildlife Watcher

Contact
Laura Guderyahn at
503-618-2246 or
Laura.Guderyahn@GreshamOregon.gov

Become a

Neighborhood
Wildlife
Watcher



- Listen to songbirds
- Enjoy the great outdoors
- Find frogs
- Spot salamanders
- Learn surveying & monitoring techniques
- Meet your non-human neighbors
- Catch tadpoles



Left: Red Admiral, Luc Viatou, Creative Commons

Bird Surveys (April through June)



Black-capped chickadee
Alan D. Willson
Creative Commons

Last year, our city-wide survey team observed 85 different species of birds including spotted towhees, cedar waxwings, lazuli buntings, and a great horned owl. Learn how to identify birds by sight and sound, watch them build nests, lay eggs, raise their young, and take flight!

Details: Volunteers work in pairs to survey a site four to seven times over a six week period, one hour per survey.

Difficulty: Moderate. Training provided. This opportunity is appropriate for individuals and families with a keen attention to detail.

You May Find:

Bushtit
Spotted towhee
Black-capped chickadee
Red-winged blackbird
American robin
Stellar's jay
Song sparrow
...and more!



A chestnut-backed chickadee flies in Gresham's open spaces.

Amphibian Surveys (February through May)



An amphibian survey volunteer holds a Pacific treefrog.

Each year, the City surveys amphibian populations at 200 sites in Gresham to monitor species considered "sensitive" or "critical" due to their widespread decline throughout Oregon. Learn more about what types of frogs and salamanders live in ponds and wetlands near you.

Details: Volunteers survey their adopted site three times over an eight week period. Each survey is one hour of looking for amphibian eggs, tadpoles and adults.

Difficulty: Easy. Training provided. This opportunity is ideal for individuals or groups and is a great project for families.

You May Find:

Red-legged frog
Ensatina salamander
Pacific treefrog
Long-toed salamander
Rough-skinned newt
Egg masses
Tadpoles
...and more!



A volunteer holds an egg mass found at a Gresham water quality facility.

Structure Monitoring (March through August)



A bluebird nesting box installed in Gresham

Since 2008, City staff have installed over 200 habitat structures. These boxes act as homes for flying squirrels, wood ducks, songbirds, swallows, and bats. Habitat structures are essential in urban environments, where natural habitats such as snags and mature trees are rare. Learn more about the critters that use these structures.

Details: Volunteers check habitat structure condition and determine critter use once a week during the nesting season with 1 to 3 hours per visit.

Difficulty: Easy. Training provided. This opportunity is ideal for individuals or groups and is a great project for families.

You May Find:

Squirrel nest
Bird nest
Eggs
Baby birds
Mama bird
Owl pellets
Snakes
...and more!



Volunteers find feathers and nests inside a songbird box.